

**From:** Alan Muller [mailto:amuller@dca.net]

**Sent:** Friday, May 26, 2006 8:39 AM

**To:** Amirikian Ronald A. (DNREC); Amirikian Ronald A. (DNREC); Perkins Richard E. (DHSS); tdeprima@dover.de.us; Llewellyn Gerald (DHSS); chalmers.ray@epa.gov; innkeeper@gullcottage.com; tpiechnik@mchsi.com; masiron@aol.com; austin4102000@yahoo.com; chrisbason@inlandbays.org; Prettyman Mark A. (DNREC); Bloom David (DOS); nicholasdi@aol.com; robert.sauer@nrgenergy.com; kitbill@localnet.com; Stu.Widom@conectiv.com; Morozowich Deanna (DNREC); Lilly Tom (DNREC); Gao Frank F. (DNREC); Foster Paul (DNREC); david.bacher@nrgenergy.com; dan.skedzielewski@conectiv.com; dblaha@duke-energy.com; tom.meyers@conectiv.com; gerry.hopper@nrgenergy.com; Clausen Robert L. (DNREC); amuller@dca.net; Mirzakhali Ali (DNREC); Cherry Judy (DEDO); Burcat Bruce H (DOS); wrevels@mchsi.com; marilyn.powers@epa.gov; Michael D. Fiorentino; robert.sauer@nrgenergy.com; don.bridge@conectiv.com; rrosin@mchsi.com; Malenfant Ray H. (DNREC); john.deming@cibasc.com; willett@udel.edu

**Cc:** Gentry Penny J. (DNREC); george.bunting.bvpm@statefarm.com

**Subject:** Pataki proposes new regulations for mercury emissions

## Pataki proposes new regulations for mercury emissions

By MARK JOHNSON  
The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. - Coal-burning power plants in New York state would have to cut mercury emissions by 90 percent by 2015 under a proposal made Thursday by Gov. George Pataki.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation will offer a public comment period on the proposed draft regulations, which would go into effect in two stages.

The plan would set a cap on the emissions allowed from each plant **without trading other plants for the rights to emit more**. Plants would first have to cut emissions in half by 2010 and then meet the higher standard five years later.

There are about 12 coal-burning plants in New York, supplying about 10 percent of the state's power. Several of those plants have already been upgraded in recent years to cut emissions, said Gavin Donohue, president of the Independent Power Producers of New York, which opposes Pataki's plan.

IPPNY said the governor's plan sets a timeline that is three years shorter than a federal mercury proposal, which also allows emissions trading.

Under the governor's plan, New York generators would be required to follow different rules than their competitors in other states, forcing them to face greater costs than their national counterparts, Donohue said.

Pataki's office, however, estimated the plan would cost consumers only 86 cents a month on their utility bills.

Mercury enters the atmosphere in the coal-burning process and works its way up the food chain, accumulating in plants, fish and eventually humans. Children and fetuses are particularly

vulnerable to mercury's effects, which includes damaging the development of the nervous system, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmental groups backed the plan, but said other Northeast states such as Connecticut, New Jersey and Massachusetts are trying to reduce mercury emissions by 90 percent sooner. Pennsylvania has a plan that would cut emissions by 80 percent by 2010 and 90 percent by 2015, according to Jason Babbie of the New York Public Interest Research Group.

"By doing coal you are getting the lion's share of mercury," Babbie said. "The 90 percent is exactly the appropriate target for reductions, but we would like to see New York requiring the reductions sooner."

In December, Pataki and the governors of six Northeast states agreed to the first multistate program in the nation to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative would curb carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 10 percent by 2019.

Alan Muller, Executive Director  
Green Delaware  
Box 69  
Port Penn, DE 19731 USA  
(302)834-3466  
fax (302)836-3005  
greendel@dca.net  
[www.greendel.org](http://www.greendel.org)